

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	*	<b>CRIMINAL DOCKET NO.: 07-273</b>
<b>VERSUS</b>	*	<b>SECTION: "D" (4)</b>
<b>MARK DANIEL FRIDGE</b>	*	
	*   *   *	

**FACTUAL BASIS**

If this case were to proceed to trial, the Government would prove the Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of Count One of the Indictment. In Count One, the Defendant, **MARK DANIEL FRIDGE**, is charged with knowingly and intentionally combining, conspiring, confederating, and agreeing with one or more persons to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute five (5) or more kilograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine hydrochloride, a Schedule II narcotic drug controlled substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(A)(ii). The Government would establish the following examples of **FRIDGE**'s involvement in the conspiracy through reliable and competent evidence:

1.) Beginning at a time unknown, but prior to July 25, 2006, and continuing until on or about February 19, 2007, in the Eastern District of Louisiana, **FRIDGE** participated in a drug distribution organization that conspired to obtain and distribute five (5) or more kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride (“cocaine”), fifty (50) grams or more of cocaine base (“crack cocaine”), and over one thousand (1000) pounds of marijuana. This organization utilized cocaine and marijuana initially brought into Louisiana from Texas by **FRIDGE**’s co-conspirator, Gabriel Juron Bolden.

2.) During the time of the conspiracy charged in the Indictment, **FRIDGE** received cocaine and marijuana from his co-conspirators, Gabriel Juron Bolden and Bruce Carter, Jr., and **FRIDGE** used various telephone facilities to coordinate illegal drug activities with his co-conspirators. **FRIDGE**’s drug-related conversations with Carter were monitored and recorded by members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) through two (2) court-authorized wire intercepts of a telephone facility used by Carter. During many of these conversations, **FRIDGE** used coded language – including words or phrases such as “girl” or “white” to indicate cocaine, and “a little game of pool” or “eightball” to indicate a quantity of an eighth ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of an ounce – in order to conceal the true nature of the calls.

3.) Examples of **FRIDGE**’s recorded conversations with Bolden occurred on January 31, 2007 and February 1, 2007. On January 31, 2007, between approximately 8:44 p.m. and 9:05 p.m., there were three (3) recorded conversations between **FRIDGE** and Bolden. Bolden contacted **FRIDGE** to say that he was “ready,” and wanted **FRIDGE** to call him back when **FRIDGE** was ready. They then rescheduled a drug transaction for 5:00 p.m. the following night. The next day at approximately 5:49 p.m., **FRIDGE** contacted Bolden, and Bolden told **FRIDGE** that he would be there about 6:30 p.m. **FRIDGE** told Bolden to “make it five.” Through testimony of a

co-conspirator, it was later learned that by “five,” **FRIDGE** was referring to five (5) pounds of marijuana.

4.) On December 4, 2006, **FRIDGE** called Carter and discussed having to wait to collect money from his two (2) “biggest” subordinate dealers. On December 6, 2006, **FRIDGE** again contacted Carter by telephone. They discussed the purchase of a scale, previous drug transactions which had incorrect weights, the arrest of one of **FRIDGE**’s dealers and the subsequent loss of four hundred (\$400) dollars, and **FRIDGE**’s need for two (2) to three (3) pounds of marijuana and one (1) ounce of cocaine the following day.

5.) In a series of calls on December 8, 2006, **FRIDGE** called Carter and ordered three (3) pounds of marijuana and one ounce of cocaine. Prior to the delivery, **FRIDGE** changed the order to one half (½) of an ounce of cocaine.

6.) On December 9, 2006, at approximately 10:27 p.m., in another telephone call with Carter, **FRIDGE** requested two (2) pounds of marijuana for the following day. On December 11, 2006, at approximately 10:22 a.m., **FRIDGE** called Carter and ordered three (3) more pounds of marijuana.

7.) On December 31, 2006, **FRIDGE** received another phone call from Carter. **FRIDGE** ordered three (3) pounds of marijuana and verified that the price would be five hundred seventy-five (\$575) dollars per pound. During a telephone conversation earlier in the day, Carter advised that the price per pound had increased by seventy-five (\$75) dollars. The next day, January 1, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter and ordered two (2) more pounds of marijuana.

8.) On January 5, 2007, Carter spoke with **FRIDGE** and with **FRIDGE**’s then-girlfriend, Chrystal Marie Barton during a series of telephone calls. **FRIDGE** called Carter to confirm cocaine

prices, and Carter offered to sell one (1) ounce of cocaine to **FRIDGE** for six hundred (\$600) dollars. After Carter advised that he would not let **FRIDGE** make a partial payment of four hundred (\$400) dollars, **FRIDGE** told Carter that he wanted only one hundred seventy-five (\$175) dollars' worth of cocaine. That amount was known to be an established price for an eighth ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of an ounce of cocaine. Later that day, Carter confirmed with Barton that **FRIDGE** was attempting to obtain "white" from Carter. Barton apparently was upset that **FRIDGE** still was arranging cocaine deals through Carter, because Barton told Carter that she wanted **FRIDGE**'s buyers to buy their cocaine directly from Carter.

9.) On January 6, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter to order three (3) pounds of marijuana. The price was verified at five hundred seventy-five (\$575) dollars per pound. On January 8, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter and told him that **FRIDGE** had people looking for "girl."

10.) On January 9, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter and asked if Carter could "do two more" pounds of marijuana "in a little while." Two days later, on January 11, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter and ordered two (2) more pounds of marijuana. On the next day, January 12, 2007, **FRIDGE** ordered three (3) more pounds of marijuana from Carter.

11.) On January 14, 2007, **FRIDGE** called Carter and ordered one eighth ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of an ounce of cocaine, using the coded phrase, "a little game of pool," to indicate the quantity. On the following day, January 15, 2007, **FRIDGE** attempted to obtain both cocaine and marijuana from Carter. Carter indicated that he was out of marijuana, but agreed to sell **FRIDGE** one hundred (\$100) dollars' worth of cocaine.

12.) On January 16, 2007, after **FRIDGE** ordered four (4) pounds of marijuana, Carter told **FRIDGE** that after January, he would only sell quantities of five (5) or more pounds of

marijuana at a time. **FRIDGE** replied that he would be “ready.”

13.) Title III wire intercepts, as well as interviews with Carter and other co-conspirators, indicated that the organization obtained between fifteen (15) and fifty (50) kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride, over fifty (50) grams of cocaine base, and over one thousand (1000) pounds of marijuana during the life of the conspiracy. The Government and **FRIDGE** agree and stipulate that for sentencing purposes, the amounts the Government could prove that **FRIDGE** distributed or possessed with the intent to distribute are three (3) ounces of cocaine hydrochloride and one hundred (100) pounds of marijuana.

14.) As indicated above, the FBI utilized audio surveillance techniques which captured **FRIDGE** and other co-conspirators communicating over various telephones. Intercepted conversations between **FRIDGE**, Carter, and Bolden, and between other co-conspirators would be introduced as evidence, as well as the testimony of cooperating conspirators and investigators.

15.) An employee of the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office analyzed the substances obtained during this investigation, and that analysis determined that they did indeed contain cocaine, a Schedule II narcotic drug controlled substance, and marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

**MARK DANIEL FRIDGE** acknowledges that the above-referenced conduct constitutes a knowing violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(A)(ii).

**APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MARK DANIEL FRIDGE** (date)  
Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOHN H. MUSSER IV** (date)  
Attorney for Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
**R. CHRISTOPHER COX III** (date)  
Assistant United States Attorney